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Application No. 10/647,657

Filed: August 25, 2003

TC Art Unit: 3731

Confirmation No.: 2131

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for implanting a prosthetic device in a body comprising:

placing a first suture through tissue at a first position using a first needle of a suture system;

placing a second needle of a suture system having an associated double stranded suture in the tissue at a distance from the first position, different strands of the double stranded suture having different indicators such that the different strands attached to the second needle can be identified;

placing additional sutures using additional needles attached to the second needle through the tissue;

placing the first suture in the prosthetic device using the single-threaded needle of the suture system;

placing the second needle and an associated double-stranded suture in the prosthetic device;

placing additional sutures using additional double-stranded sutures along the prosthetic device; and

securing the prosthetic device into position.

Application No. 10/647,657  
Filed: August 25, 2003  
TC Art Unit: 3731  
Confirmation No.: 2131

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the strands of the double-stranded suture are of different colors.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the first suture strand is green and another suture strand is white.
4. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein a third strand color is formed with a pair of braided strands of different colors.
5. (Currently Amended) A suture device for suturing a prosthetic device to tissue comprising:

a plurality of at least three connected needles with at least one needle being associated with a double stranded suture, at least one strand of the double stranded suture associated with the at least one needle having a visual indicator to distinguish the at least one strand from a second strand associated with the at least one needle;

each suture strand extending between a pair of the connected needles such that suture strands can be identified with the visual indicator, the needles being removable from the suture strands after insertion through a prosthetic

Application No. 10/647,657  
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TC Art Unit: 3731  
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device and the ends of each strand being identified and secured together to attach the device to the tissue.

6. (Original) The suture device of claim 5 wherein the suture strands include strands of at least two different colors.
7. (Original) The suture device of claim 5 wherein the device has at least three needles that are each associated with at least two strands.
8. (Original) The suture device of claim 5 further comprising a first needle attached to a single strand and a last needle attached to a single strand and said at least one needle associated with at least two suture strands there between.
9. (Previously Presented) The suture device of claim 5 further comprising a plurality of suture pads such that each needle is attached to another needle with a suture strand having a pad attached to the suture strand.

Application No. 10/647,657

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Confirmation No.: 2131

10. (Previously Presented) The suture device of claim 5 wherein the prosthetic device further comprises a cuff through which suture strands are threaded.
11. (Previously Presented) The suture device of claim 5 wherein the prosthetic device comprises a valve.
12. (Previously Presented) The suture device of claim 5 further comprising a package for housing the suture device.
13. (Previously Presented) The suture device of claim 5 further comprising a mechanical suture placement device.
14. (Previously Presented) The suture device of claim 5 wherein the prosthetic device comprises an aortic valve.